

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-10

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R 211418Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9380

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0803

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT-PLO DISCUSSION ON LEBANON

1. SADAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO HAVE HALF-HOUR MEETING WITH EACH OF DELGATIONS TO ARAB PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN CAIRO JANUARY 19. WE UNDERSTAND HIS MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS FROM PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL LASTED MORE THAN AN HOUR, WHILE JORDANIANS TALHUNI AND RIFA'I COOLED HEELS IN ANTEROOM.

2. PRESS USED PICTURE OF SADAT WITH PALESTINAIANS AS FEATURE ON JANUARY 20 BUT PROVIDED NO DETAILS OF DISCUSSION. PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER PRESENT AT PICTURE-TAKING SESSION TELLS US SADAT GREETED THE THREE PALESTINAINS CORDIALLY, AND THAT KHALID HASAN EMBRACED PRESIDENT WARMLY. SAME SOURCE, WHO WE BELIEVE FRELIABLE, TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT SADAT'S VOICE COULD BE HEARD FROM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS. SADAT WAS REPORTEDLY SPEAKING WITH CONSIDERABLE PASSION AND PRESS EAVESDROPPERS CLAIM MAIN SUBJECT SEEMED TO BE SYRIA.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE
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IN SPENDING SO MUCH TIME RECENTLY WITH PALESTINIAN

EMISSARIES HAS BEEN NOT ONLY TO URGE THEM TO MAKE THEIR
OWN DECISIONS IN VIEW OF THEIR LONG-RUN INTERESTS WHICH
EGYPT, NOT SYRIA, CAN BEST ASSIST THEM IN ACHIEVING, BUT
ALSO THAT PALESTINIANS ARE BEING USED AS MESSENGERS TO
DAMASCUS ON LEBANESE MESS. PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS AS
LEBANESE FIGHTING CONTINUES IS MANIFEST TO ALL AND EGYPTIANS
SEEM TO REGARD PLO MODERATES AS POTENTIALLY POWERFUL ALLY IN
BRINGING FIGHTING TO AN END. SPECIFICALLY, SINCE EGYPTIANS
ARE STILL CONVINCED SYRIANS COULD DO MORE TO CONTAIN
FIGHTING THAN THEY ARE DOING AT PRESENT, WE BELIEVE SADAT
AND FAHMY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSING ON PALESTINIANS THEIR FERVENT
BELIEF THAT SYRIANS ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE, PUTTING AT
RISK PALESTINIANS OWN BEST CHANCE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
EILTS

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